



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# Alaska Fisheries Science Center

## Ecosystem Science Program Review

# Introduction and Charge to Review Panel

Doug DeMaster  
Director for Science and Research

2-6 May 2016

# NOAA Fisheries Science Program Reviews

Reviews of science programs at NOAA Fisheries science centers are conducted annually to:

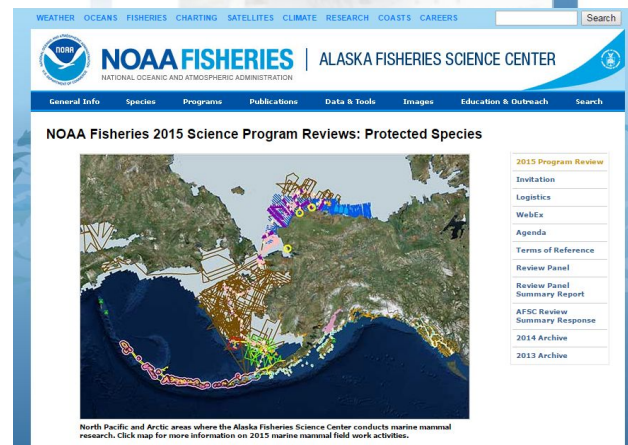
- Evaluate the quality, relevance, and performance of science and research conducted in NMFS science centers and associated laboratories
- Strategically position the science centers and the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology in planning future science and research

# Objectives of the Ecosystem Science Program Reviews

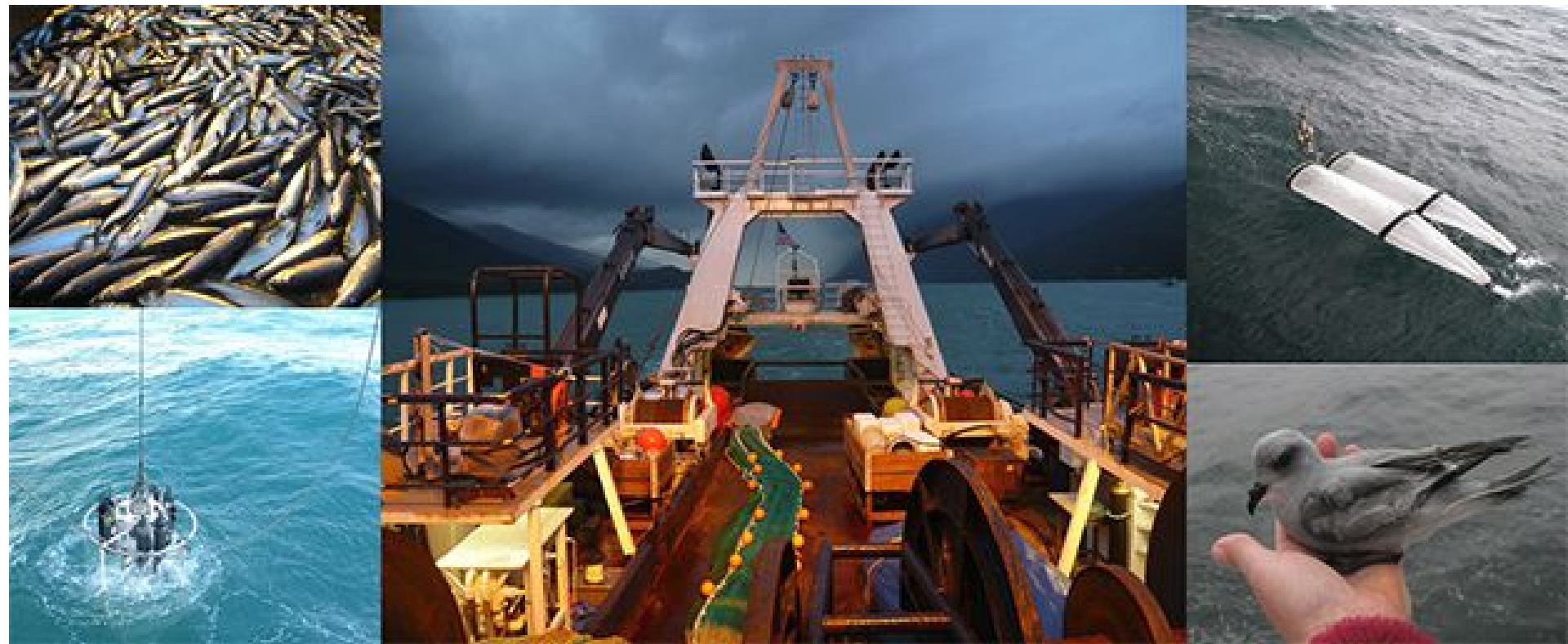
- Evaluate NOAA Fisheries' current scientific programs that provide information relative to the management, protection, and restoration of resilient and productive ecosystems
- Assess the extent to which current science programs are focused on the priority information needs required to complete the NOAA Fisheries mission

# Previous AFSC Science Program Reviews

- 2013 NOAA Fisheries Science Program Review: Stock Assessment Data
- 2014 NOAA Fisheries Science Program Review: Stock Assessments
- 2015 NOAA Fisheries Science Program Review: Protected Species
- Reports and responses to these reviews are available on the AFSC Program Review website



# 2016 Science Program Review: Ecosystem Science



# Terms of Reference for the 2016 Review: Overarching Questions for Reviewers

1. Do the Centers/ST have clear goals and objectives for an ecosystem-related science program? Is ecosystem-related science integrated with the other science activities across Divisions within the Center/ST? Are the Center's/ST's ecosystem science and research activities appropriately prioritized and evaluated as part of an overall strategic plan?
2. Do the Center's/ST's ecosystem-related science programs focus on information to address the priority needs of the Regional Offices, other NOAA managers, Fishery Management Councils and Commissions, and other partners that require ecosystem-related information to achieve their mission?

# Terms of Reference for the 2016 Review: Overarching Questions for Reviewers

3. Has the Center/ST appropriately established a Regional Action Plan to identify the major climate threats to the ecosystem, identify major vulnerabilities of living marine resources with respect to climate, address the core science needs to address impacts from a changing climate, and integrate this information into management advice, congruent with the NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy?



# Terms of Reference for the 2016 Review: Overarching Questions for Reviewers

4. What is the status of oceanographic, habitat, climate and ecological data required to fulfill ecosystem-related science needs? Has the Center developed strategies to obtain and manage such data?
5. Is the Center appropriately analyzing and modeling ecosystem-level processes? Are cumulative and integrative ecosystem-level analyses being conducted? If not, is there a plan in place to initiate or contribute to the science needed to address cumulative impacts?



# Terms of Reference for the 2016 Review: Overarching Questions for Reviewers

6. Is the Center's oceanographic, habitat, climate and ecological advice sufficiently included into living marine resource management advice? Are there suitable mechanisms to determine when such inclusion is warranted?
7. Are the Centers'/ST's ecosystem-related science programs and products adequately peer-reviewed relative to their purpose and use? If not, has the Center/ST developed a strategy for peer-review?

# Terms of Reference for the 2016 Review: Overarching Questions for Reviewers

8. Does the Center/ST appropriately communicate research results and resource needs to conduct ecosystem-related science to various managers, partners, stakeholders and the public?

# Panel Recommendations Lead to Action

- AFSC Leadership will respond to Panel report
- Recommendations are incorporated into subsequent years' Guidance Memos, Activity Plans, and employee Performance Plans
- Periodic status reports to NOAA Fisheries Headquarters and Science Board
- Examples of actions in response to FY13-15 reviews:
  - Analyses of sampling efforts to determine if reductions could be made without loss in management value;
  - Investments in electronic monitoring capabilities;
  - Conducting applied research to address catchability and gear selectivity



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# Questions?



**NOAA FISHERIES**